

The Ethics of Organ Donation and Transplantation: Philosophical Perspectives

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Abstract : This paper explores the ethical dimensions of organ donation and transplantation through various philosophical lenses, including utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics. As advancements in medical technology increase the possibilities for life-saving transplants, ethical dilemmas surrounding consent, allocation, and the commodification of human organs have become increasingly pertinent. Utilitarian perspectives emphasize maximizing overall well-being, raising questions about how to equitably allocate limited resources. Deontological approaches focus on the moral obligations of individuals and institutions, particularly regarding informed consent and the sanctity of the human body. Virtue ethics encourages a consideration of the character and intentions of donors and medical professionals, fostering a holistic understanding of the ethical landscape. By analyzing real-world case studies and ethical frameworks, this study highlights the complexities in decision-making processes related to organ donation. It addresses issues such as presumed consent, living donations, and the societal implications of organ markets. Ultimately, this paper aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on organ donation ethics, advocating for policies that respect individual rights while promoting altruism and social responsibility. Through a philosophical lens, we seek to propose a balanced approach that honors both the dignity of individuals and the urgent need for organ transplants in modern medicine.

Keywords : organ donation, medical technology, virtue ethics, Altruism

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